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mentary on the Zoölogical Results of their Expedition, by Dr. Elliott Coues; Notice of a very large Goniaticite from Eastern Kansas, by F. B. Meek; Fossil Orthoptera from the Rocky Mountain Territories, by S. H. Scudder; Studies of the American Falconidæ, Monograph of the Polybori, by Robert Ridgway.

— At the second meeting, held in Boston, of those interested in mountain exploration, the name "Appalachian Mountain Club" was adopted. Prof. C. H. Hitchcock exhibited a model of the White Mountains, and Mr. Sweetser presented the report of the committee on the nomenclature of the White Mountains, and the club voted to adopt a number of names which the committee recommended.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, San Francisco, Cal. — December 20, 1875. A memorial to the legislature, praying that the Geological Survey be resumed, was adopted. It was stated in the memorial that there have been published four volumes of the geological reports, namely, one of geology, two of palæontology, and one of ornithology, besides smaller pamphlets and several topographical maps, the beauty, accuracy, and value of which are appreciated and acknowledged by all who have carefully examined them. Of the unpublished matter already accumulated, there is the material for a second volume of geology, for a volume of botany nearly ready to be issued, and the greater portion of the material for a second volume of ornithology, devoted to the aquatic birds. The map of Central California is so nearly finished that the active field-work of one more season would complete it. This map embraces nearly one half the area of the State, extending from Lassen's Peak on the north to Visalia on the south, and includes all the more important mining districts within the limits of California. The work so far done upon it is unexceptionable, and when completed it will possess the highest practical value, will meet with a ready sale, and will be the most important contribution to the geography of this coast that has ever been made. A general geological map of the whole State has been partially drawn and colored, and could be finished and published in such a way as to show the extent of the present knowledge of the geology of the State (subject, of course, to such improvements in detail as may hereafter be developed by future works), at no great expense. The United States Coast Survey map of the peninsula of San Francisco has been geologically colored in great detail, and only waits the means for its publication.

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON. — January 15, 1876. Major J. W. Powell addressed the society on types of mountain-building, describing the characteristics of the mountains in the regions covered by his explorations.

January 29th. Mr. W. H. Dall read a paper on the succession in the

shell-heaps of the Aleutian Islands. He showed that they were separated into three successive periods, indicated by the remains of food contained in the shell-heaps, namely, lower or Echinus layer (Littoral Period), composed of the remains of Echini and mollusk-shells; middle or fish-bone layer (Fishing Period), composed principally of the remains of fish; and lastly, the mammalian layer (Hunting Period), composed principally of bones of sea animals and birds. Above all this came the remains of the more modern village sites.

The first period might have extended over a thousand years; the length of the others there is no means of approximating. The first layer contained few and very rude implements, and a gradual progression was observed in the variety and finish of the implements and weapons of the succeeding layers. Only toward the last were there any signs of the use of houses, fire, or ornamentation of tools or other articles. The character of the latter showed that the early inhabitants formed their tools and weapons after the Eskimo patterns, but these gradually became differentiated into a type peculiar to the islands. Mr. Dall considered it probable that the first inhabitants were Eskimo of a low type, who took to the islands for protection, coming from America, and in their restricted surroundings in the course of ages developed into a special type, without entirely effacing the links which connect them with the Eskimo in language, physique, and fabrications.

Dr. Bessels read a paper on the hygrometric properties of the atmosphere in the Arctic regions.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY. — January 19th. Mr. T. T. Bouvé read a paper on the origin of porphyry, in which it was claimed that the rock was an altered conglomerate. Professor Hyatt exhibited a geological map of Marblehead Neck. The conglomeritic character of the porphyries of this locality were particularly dwelt upon, and a large series of specimens exhibited. A paper by Mr. L. S. Burbank on the conglomerates of Harvard, Mass., and their relations to the crystalline rocks, followed.

February 2d. Dr. W. K. Brooks read a paper on the development of *Astyris* (*Columbella*) *lunata*. This is the first siphonated gasteropod whose embryological history has been followed. Some general views on the molluscan pedigree were added. Mr. S. H. Scudder read a paper on the way in which cockroaches and earwigs fold their wings.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Philadelphia. — February 4th. The collections of the academy are being arranged as rapidly as possible in the new building, and it is hoped that the museum will be thrown open for the inspection of the public early in the coming spring.

Professor Cope exhibited a fragment of a leg-bone of a fossil bird discovered by him during the explorations in New Mexico conducted by Lieutenant Wheeler. It resembles in many points those of the ostrich and the extinct *Dinornis* of New Zealand, and its size indicates a species

twice the bulk of the former. The discovery introduces this group of birds to the known faunæ of North America, recent and extinct, and demonstrates the fact that this continent has not been destitute of the gigantic forms of birds now confined to the fauna of the southern hemisphere. A description of the fragment was given, the peculiarities which distinguish it from the corresponding part of its nearest allies were dwelt upon, and the name *Diatryma gigantea* was proposed for the form indicated by it.

Professor Frazer exhibited eight geological maps of Yesso, lately received from Benjamin Smith Lyman, Geologist-in-Chief of Japan.

Mr. Henry Carvill Lewis remarked that it might be of interest to mention the occurrence of strontianite in Pennsylvania—a mineral which he believed had not been heretofore recorded as occurring in our State. He had found it quite abundantly in Mifflin County, on the Juniata, opposite Mount Union. It exists as white tufts of rhombic crystals lining pockets in limestones, or, when in shale, disseminated throughout the rock-mass.

A paper entitled Description of a New Generic Type, *Bassaricyon Gabbii*, of the *Procyonidæ*, from Costa Rica, by J. A. Allen, was presented for publication.

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. — At the late annual election, Prof. George Davidson was elected president. At the meeting of January 17th, Henry Edwards read descriptions of new species of Lepidoptera, and a resolution was adopted, the object of which was to sectionize the academy.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, St. Louis. — January 17th. Dr. Richardson exhibited a skull and some specimens of pottery obtained from a mound “near the stock-yards” at East St. Louis. The mound was about ten feet high, and forty feet in diameter at its base. At a depth of six or seven feet, eighteen skulls were found. The bodies had been laid in a circle, with the heads outward. Many of the skulls were fractured on the temporal bone. He had also found eighteen graves in the bluffs on the Belleville or “rock” road. These bones were found under slabs of stone, with some article of pottery near the head.

Mr. Theo. Allen exhibited some pottery and skulls found in mounds in Southeast Missouri. The mounds were near a swamp, and inclosed in an earth-work about a quarter of a mile square. Three mounds were opened. In only one were human remains found. Here were discovered the skulls, arms, and legs of many skeletons. No vertebræ or ribs were found. The bodies had been placed in a circle, with the heads inward. The skulls were nearly all flattened on the left side, and pressed out on the right side, but lay with the face upward. Many articles of pottery were found with the skulls. Mr. Allen stated that many of these adult skulls possess rudimentary teeth. Within the inclosure were also found many sink-holes, laid out in regular order, which had once served as

human habitations. Specimens of dried brick which had been used to plaster over these rude habitations were also found. Mr. A. J. Conant also exhibited some skulls, and implements of bone and stone, found by him in caves in Pulaski County, Mo., on the Gasconade River.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, New York. — January 24th. The president, Dr. J. S. Newberry, made a communication on Fossil Fishes and Foot-Prints from the Trias of New Jersey, in which he announced his rediscovery of an old and important locality, which had been for many years forgotten or lost. Boonton, New Jersey, lies at the junction of the Trias with the gneiss range of the Highlands; and close to the village occur two adjacent beds of shale, in the Triassic sandstone. These layers are literally crowded with fishes, for the most part in a very perfect condition, showing no traces of slow decay, but rather of sudden destruction and burial. Many fine specimens were procured, but only one species had been definitely recognized, *Catopterus gracilis*.

He also exhibited very fine and large tracks from the Triassic sandstones at Pompton, a few miles from the fish locality. They have the same characters as the three-toed reptilian foot-prints (the so-called 'bird-tracks') of the Connecticut Valley. The evidence is ample that this great tribe of bird-like reptiles had a very considerable development in our American Mesozoic, reaching on well into the Cretaceous in the forms of *Hadrosaurus* and *Laelaps*.

Prof. D. S. Martin presented an account of the Occurrence of Silurian Fossils in the Drift of Long Island. The fossils are characteristic Brachiopods of the Delthyris shaly limestone (especially *Strophodonts Beckii* and *S. Headleyana*) from a large boulder in the heavy drift of Long Island, at Willett's Point. A like circumstance has lately been noted in the Proceedings of the Philadelphia Academy, — the finding of *Oneida* and *Medina* bowlders at West Philadelphia. The questions arising are the same in the two cases, namely, as to whether the transporting agent was glacier-ice or bergs. If the former, the distance over which the ice-sheet actually moved (in the present case nearly one hundred miles) is quite beyond our usual estimate, at least in this region, and would also require that the glacier should have overridden the range of the Blue Ridge Highlands entirely. On the other hand, if icebergs were the agents, they must needs have passed through the narrow gaps in that range now occupied by the Hudson, in this instance, and by the Delaware, Lehigh, or Schuylkill, in the other. The finding of some oysters (apparently *O. borealis*) with the Long Island boulder would indicate clearly that floating ice was the agency of transportation.

Mr. Henry Newton, of the United States Black Hills Expedition, exhibited a large series of rocks and of Cretaceous and Jurassic fossils, collected by the party last summer, and described their occurrence somewhat in detail. The rocks included Potsdam sandstone, Huronian slates, and granites of two very distinct types; one of these Mr. Newton re-

guards as Laurentian, and the other as eruptive, and subsequent to the deposition of the Potsdam, at least, as that rock contains no fragments of it, though full of pebbles from the Huronian.

TROY SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION. — January 17th, annual meeting. Dr. R. H. Ward was elected president, and Rev. A. B. Hervey and Wm. E. Hagen vice-presidents. Dr. Ward delivered an address on the Petrified Forest of California. He considered the peculiar fracture of the fallen petrified trunks their most suggestive and important peculiarity since they are broken up somewhat symmetrically in a manner that might happen to wood rendered brittle by charring or perhaps by partial petrification, but could hardly be conceived as occurring to ordinary wood or stone.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.¹

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF MICROSCOPICAL SCIENCE. — January. On the Structure of Hyaline Cartilage, by G. Thin. Further Observations on a Peach or Red Colored Bacterium, by E. R. Lankester. On the Development of Teeth, by C. S. Tomes. An Account of Professor Haeckel's Recent Additions to the Gastræa Theory, by E. R. Lankester. On the Evolution of Hæmoglobin, by H. C. Sorby.

THE MONTHLY MICROSCOPICAL JOURNAL. — January. Improved Method of Applying the Micro-Spectroscopic Test for Blood-Stains, by J. G. Richardson.

THE POPULAR SCIENCE REVIEW. — January. In the Wake of the Challenger, by J. G. Galton. The Cretaceous Flora, by J. Morris.

THE GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE. — January. Contributions to the Study of Volcanoes, by J. W. Judd. Geology of Ice and Bell Sounds, Spitzbergen, by A. E. Nordenskiöld.

ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR WISSENSCHAFTLICH ZOÖLOGIE. — December 8, 1875. Natural History of the Marine Bryozoa, by W. Repiachoff. Anatomy of *Chaetoderma nitidulum*, by L. Graff. On the Order *Gastrotricha*, by H. Ludwig.

ARCHIV FÜR MIKROSKOPISCHE ANATOMIE. — November 20, 1875. On the Tegument of Amphibia, by F. Leydig. On the Anatomy of *Amphioxus lanceolatus*, by P. Langerhans.

ARCHIVES DE ZOÖLOGIE EXPÉRIMENTALE ET GÉNÉRALE. — No. 3, 1875. Researches on the Free Helminths of the Coast of Brittany, by A. Villot. Contributions to a History of the Gregarinæ of Invertebrates of Paris and Roscoff, by A. Schneider. On the Development of Poduræ, by Oulganin (notice by the editor).

PETERMANN'S GEOGRAPHISCHER MITTHEILUNGEN. — November 10, 1875. Stanley's Exploration of Victoria Nyanza, by E. Behm. Nordenskiöld's New Route by Sea from Europe to Siberia.

¹ The articles enumerated under this head will be for the most part selected.